

# PLA

**PLA'YDEBT.** *n. f.* [*play and debt.*] Debt contracted by gaming. There are multitudes of leases upon single lives, and *play-debts* upon joint lives. *Arbutnot.*  
She has several *playdebts* on her hand, which must be discharged very suddenly. *Speculator*, N<sup>o</sup> 295.  
**PLA'YER.** *n. f.* [*from play.*]  
1. One who plays.  
2. An idler; a lazy person.  
You're pictures out of doors,  
Saints in your injuries, devils being offended,  
Players in your housewifery. *Shakespeare's Othello.*  
3. Actor of dramatic scenes.  
Like *players* plac'd to fill a filthy stage,  
Where change of thoughts one fool to other shews,  
And all but jests, serve only sorrow's rage. *Sidney.*  
Certain pantomimi will represent the voices of *players* of interludes so to life, as you would think they were those *players* themselves. *Bacon's Natural History.*  
A *player*, if left of his auditory and their applause, would straight be out of heart. *Bacon.*  
Thine be the laurel then, support the stage;  
Which so declines, that shortly we may see  
*Players* and plays reduc'd to second infancy. *Dryden.*  
His muse had starv'd, had not a piece unread,  
And by a *player* bought, supply'd her bread. *Dryden.*  
4. A mimic.  
Thus said the *player* god; and adding art  
Of voice and gesture, to perform'd his part,  
That Ceyx spake the words. *Dryden.*  
5. One who touches a musical instrument.  
Command thy servants to seek out a man, who is a cunning *player* on the harp. *Samuel xvi. 16.*  
6. A gamester.  
7. One who acts in play in any certain manner.  
The snake bit him fast by the tongue, which therewith began so to wrangle and swell, that, by the time he had knocked this soul *player* on the head, his mouth was scarce able to contain it. *Carew's Survey of Cornwall.*  
**PLA'YFELLOW.** *n. f.* [*play and fellow.*] Companion in amusement.  
Inconstant in his choice of his friends, or rather never having a friend but *playfellows*, of whom, when he was weary, he could no otherwise rid himself than by killing them. *Sidney.*  
She seem'd still back unto the land to look,  
And her *playfellows* aid to call, and fear  
The dashing of the waves. *Spenser.*  
Your precious self had not then cross'd the eyes  
Of my young *playfellow*. *Shakespeare's Winter's Tale.*  
Mischance and sorrow go along with you!  
Heart's discontent and four affliction  
Be *playfellows* to keep you company! *Shakespeare.*  
Sweet *playfellows*, pray thou for us,  
And good luck grant thee thy Demetrius. *Shakespeare.*  
This was the play at which Nero staked three thousand two hundred and twenty-nine pounds three shillings and four pence upon every cast; where did he find *playfellows*? *Arbutnot on Coins.*  
**PLA'YFUL.** *adj.* [*play and full.*] Sportive; full of levity.  
He is scandalized at youth for being lively, and at childhood for being *playful*. *Addison's Spectator*, N<sup>o</sup> 494.  
**PLA'YGAME.** *n. f.* [*play and game.*] Play of children.  
That liberty alone gives the true relish to their ordinary *playgames*. *Locke.*  
**PLA'YHOUSE.** *n. f.* [*play and house.*] House where dramatic performances are represented.  
These are the youths that thunder at a *playhouse*, and fight for bitten apples. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*  
He hurries me from the *playhouse* and scenes there, to the bear-garden. *Stillingfleet.*  
I am a sufficient theatre to myself of ridiculous actions, without expecting company either in a court or *playhouse*. *Dry.*  
Shakespeare, whom you and every *playhouse* bill  
Stile the divine. *Pope's Epistles to Horace.*  
**PLA'YPLEASURE.** *n. f.* [*play and pleasure.*] Idle amusement.  
He taketh a kind of *playpleasure* in looking upon the fortunes of others. *Bacon's Essays.*  
**PLA'YSOME.** *adj.* [*play and some.*] Wanton; full of levity.  
**PLA'YSOMENESS.** *n. f.* [*from play some.*] Wantonness; levity.  
**PLA'YTHING.** *n. f.* [*play and thing.*] Toy; thing to play with.  
O Castilio! thou hast caught  
My foolish heart; and like a tender child,  
That trusts his *plaything* to another hand,  
I fear its harm, and fain would have it back. *Orway.*  
A child knows his nurse, and by degrees the *playthings* of a little more advanced age. *Locke.*  
The servants should be hindered from making court to them, by giving them fruit and *playthings*. *Locke.*  
O Richard,  
Would fortune calm her present rage,  
And give us *playthings* for our age. *Prior.*

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Allow him but the *plaything* of a pen,  
He ne'er rebels or plots. *Pope.*  
**PLA'YWRIGHT.** *n. f.* [*play and wright.*] A maker of plays.  
He ended much in the character he had liv'd in; and *Horace's* rule for a play may as well be applied to him as a *playwright*. *Pope.*  
**PLEA.** *n. f.* [*plaid, old French.*]  
1. The act or form of pleading.  
2. Thing offered or demanded in pleading.  
The magnificoes have all persuaded with him;  
But none can drive him from the envious *plea*  
Of forfeiture of justice and his bond. *Shakespeare.*  
3. Allegation.  
They tow'rd the throne supreme,  
Accountable, made haste, to make appear  
With righteous *plea*, their utmost vigilance. *Milton.*  
4. An apology; an excuse.  
The fiend, with necessity,  
The tyrant's *plea*, excus'd his devilish deeds.  
Thou determin'd weakness for no *plea*. *Milton.*  
When such occasions are,  
No *plea* must serve; 'tis cruelty to spare. *Deubann.*  
Whoever argues in defence of absolute power in a single person, though he offers the old plausible *plea*, that, it is his opinion, which he cannot help, unless he be convinced, ought to be treated as the common enemy of mankind. *Swift.*  
To **PLEACH.** *v. a.* [*pleffer, Fr.*] To bend; to interweave.  
A word not in use.  
Wouldst thou be window'd in great Rome, and see  
Thy master thus, with *pleacht* arms, bending down  
His corrigible neck. *Shakespeare.*  
Steal into the *pleached* bower,  
Where honey-suckles ripen'd by the sun,  
Forbid the fun to enter. *Shakespeare.*  
To **PLEAD.** *v. n.* [*plaiders, Fr.*]  
1. To argue before a court of justice.  
To his accusations  
He *pleaded* still not guilty; and alleg'd  
Many sharp reasons. *Shakespeare's Henry VIII.*  
O that one might *plead* for a man with God, as a man  
*pleadeth* for his neighbour! *Job xvi. 21.*  
Of beauty sing;  
Let others govern or defend the state,  
*Plead* at the bar, or manage a debate. *Granvil.*  
Lawyers and divines write down short notes, in order to  
to *plead*. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*  
2. To speak in an argumentative or persuasive way for or against;  
to reason with another.  
I am  
To *plead* for that, which I would not obtain. *Shakespeare.*  
Who is he that will *plead* with me; for now if I hold my  
tongue, I shall give up the ghost. *Job xiii. 19.*  
If nature *plead* not in a parent's heart,  
Pity my tears, and pity her desert. *Dryden.*  
It must be no ordinary way of reasoning, in a man that is  
*pleading* for the natural power of kings, and against all com-  
pact, to bring for proof an example, where his own account  
founds all the right upon compact. *Locke.*  
3. To be offered as a plea.  
Since you can love, and yet your error see,  
The same restless power may *plead* for me,  
With no less ardour I my claim pursue;  
I love, and cannot yield her even to you. *Dryden.*  
To **PLEAD.** *v. a.*  
1. To defend; to dispute.  
Will you, we shew our title to the crown?  
If not, our swords shall *plead* it in the field. *Shakespeare.*  
2. To allege in pleading or argument.  
Don Sebastian came forth to intreat, that they might part  
with their arms like soldiers; it was told him, that they could  
not justly *plead* law of nations, for that they were not lawful  
enemies. *Spenser on Ireland.*  
If they will *plead* against me my reproach, know that God  
hath overthrown me. *Job xix. 5.*  
3. To offer as an excuse.  
I will neither *plead* my age nor sickness, in excuse of  
faults. *Dryden.*  
**PLEA'DABLE.** *adj.* [*from plead.*] Capable to be alleged in  
plea.  
I ought to be discharged from this information, because this  
privilege is *pleadable* at law. *Dryden.*  
**PLEA'DER.** *n. f.* [*plaidere, Fr. from plead.*]  
1. One who argues in a court of justice.  
The brief with weighty crimes was charg'd,  
On which the *pleader* much enlarg'd. *Swift's Miscell.*  
2. One who speaks for or against.  
If you  
Would be your country's *pleader*, your good tongue  
Might stop our countryman. *Shakespeare's Coriolanus.*  
So fair a *pleader* any cause may gain. *Dryden.*

PLEADING.

# PLE

**PLEADING.** *n. f.* [*from plead.*] Act or form of pleading.  
If the heavenly folk should know  
These *pleadings* in the court below. *Swift's Miscell.*  
**PLEASANCE.** *n. f.* [*plaisance, Fr.*] Gaiety; pleafantry; mer-  
riment.  
The lovely *pleasance* and the lofty pride  
Cannot express'd be by any art. *Spenser.*  
Her words she drowned with laughing vain,  
And wanting grace in ut'ring of the same,  
'That turned all her *pleasance* to a scoffing game. *F. Queen.*  
Oh that men should put an enemy into their mouths, to  
steal away their brains! that we should with joy, *pleasance*,  
revel and applause transform ourselves into beasts. *Shakespeare.*  
**PLEASANT.** *adj.* [*plaisant, French.*]  
1. Delightful; giving delight.  
The gods are just, and of our *pleasant* vices  
Make instruments to scourge us. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*  
What most he should dislike, seems *pleasant* to him;  
What like, offensive. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*  
How good and how *pleasant* it is for brethren to dwell in  
unity! *Psalms.*  
Verdure clad  
Her universal face with *pleasant* green. *Milton.*  
2. Grateful to the senses.  
Sweeter thy discourse is to my ear,  
Than fruits of palm-tree *pleasant* to thirst. *Milton.*  
3. Good humoured; cheerful.  
In all thy humours, whether grave or mellow,  
Thou'rt such a touchy, teasy, *pleasant* fellow. *Addison.*  
4. Gay; lively; merry.  
Let neither the power nor quality of the great, or the wit  
of the *pleasant* prevail with us to flatter the vices, or applaud  
the prophaneness of wicked men. *Rogers's Sermons.*  
5. Trifling; adapted rather to mirth than use.  
They, who would prove their idea of infinite to be posi-  
tive, seem to do it by a *pleasant* argument, taken from the ne-  
gation of an end, which being negative, the negation of it  
is positive. *Locke.*  
**PLEASANTLY.** *adv.* [*from pleasant.*]  
1. In such a manner as to give delight.  
2. Gayly; merrily; in good humour.  
King James was wont *pleasantly* to say, that the duke of  
Buckingham had given him a secretary, who could neither  
write nor read. *Clarendon.*  
3. Lightly; ludicrously.  
Euthyphrus is of opinion, that Ulysses speaks *pleasantly* to  
Elpenor. *Broome.*  
**PLEASANTNESS.** *n. f.* [*from pleasant.*]  
1. Delightfulness; state of being pleasant.  
Doth not the *pleasantness* of this place carry in itself suffi-  
cient reward. *Sidney.*  
2. Gaiety; cheerfulness; merriment.  
It was refreshing, but composed, like the *pleasantness* of  
youth tempered with the gravity of age.  
He would fain put on some *pleasantness*, but was not able  
to conceal his vexation. *Tillotson.*  
**PLEASANTRY.** *n. f.* [*plaisanterie, Fr.*]  
1. Gaiety; merriment.  
The harshness of reasoning is not a little softened and  
smoothed by the infusions of mirth and *pleasantry*. *Addison.*  
Such kinds of *pleasantry* are disingenuous in criticism, the  
greatest masters appear serious and instructive. *Addison.*  
2. Sprightly saying; lively talk.  
The grave abound in *pleasantries*, the dull in repartees and  
points of wit. *Addison's Spectator*, N<sup>o</sup> 487.  
To **PLEASE.** *v. a.* [*placere, Lat. plaire, Fr.*]  
1. To delight; to gratify; to humour.  
They *please* themselves in the children of strangers. *Is. ii. 6.*  
Whether it were a whistling wind, or a *pleasing* fall of  
water running violently. *Wisdom xvii. 18.*  
Thou canst not be so *pleas'd* at liberty,  
As I shall be to find thou dar'st be free. *Dryden.*  
Leave such to trifle with more grace and ease,  
Whom folly *pleases*, and whose follies *please*. *Pope.*  
2. To satisfy; to content.  
Doctor Pinch  
Establish him in his true sense again,  
And I will *please* you what you will demand. *Shakespeare.*  
What next I bring shall *please*  
Thy wish exactly to thy heart's desire. *Milton.*  
3. To obtain favour from; to be pleased with, is to approve;  
to favour.  
This is my beloved son, in whom I am well *pleas'd*. *Mat.*  
I have seen thy face, and thou wast *pleas'd* with me. *Gen.*  
Pickle their state whom God  
Most favours; who can *please* him long? *Milton.*  
4. To be PLEASED. To like. A word of ceremony.  
Many of our most skillful painters were *pleas'd* to recom-  
mend this author to me, as one who perfectly understood the  
rules of painting. *Dryden's Dunciad.*  
To **PLEASE.** *v. n.*  
1. To give pleasure.  
What *pleasing* seem'd, for her now *pleases* more. *Milton.*

# PLE

I found something that was more *pleasing* in them, than my  
ordinary productions. *Dryden.*  
2. To gain approbation.  
Their wine-offerings shall not be *pleasing* unto him. *Hosea.*  
3. To like; to chuse.  
Spirits, freed from mortal laws, with ease  
Assume what sexes and what shapes they *please*. *Pope.*  
4. To condescend; to comply. A word of ceremony.  
*Please* you, lords,  
In sight of both our battles we may meet. *Shakespeare.*  
The first words that I learnt were, to express my desire,  
that he would *please* to give me my liberty. *Gower.*  
**PLEASER.** *n. f.* [*from please.*] One that courts favour.  
**PLEASINGLY.** *adv.* [*from pleasing.*] In such a manner as to  
give delight.  
*Pleasingly* troublesome thought and remembrance have been  
to me since I left you. *Milton.*  
Thus to herself she *pleasingly* began.  
The end of the art is *pleasingly* to deceive the eye. *Dryd.*  
He gains all points, who *pleasingly* confounds,  
Surprizes, varies, and conceals the bounds. *Pope.*  
**PLEASINGNESS.** *n. f.* [*from pleasing.*] Quality of giving de-  
light.  
**PLEASEMAN.** *n. f.* [*please and man.*] A pickthank; an offi-  
cious fellow.  
Some carry tale, some *pleaseman*, some slight zany,  
'That knows the trick to make my lady laugh,  
Told our intents. *Shakespeare's Love's Labour Lost.*  
**PLEASURABLE.** *adj.* [*from pleasure.*] Delightful; full of  
pleasure.  
Planting of orchards is very profitable, as well as *pleasur-*  
*able*. *Bacon.*  
It affords a *pleasurable* habitation in every part, and that is  
the line eclips'd. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*  
There are, that the compounded fluid drain  
From different mixtures: so the blended streams,  
Each mutually correcting each, create  
A *pleasurable* medley. *Philips.*  
Our ill-judging thought  
Hardly enjoys the *pleasurable* taste. *Prior.*  
**PLEASURE.** *n. f.* [*plaisir, French.*]  
1. Delight; gratification of the mind or senses.  
*Pleasure*, in general, is the consequent apprehension of  
a suitable object, suitably applied to a rightly disposed fa-  
culties. *South's Sermons.*  
A cause of men's taking *pleasure* in the sins of others, is,  
that poor spiritiveness that accompanies guilt. *South's Sermons.*  
In hollow caves sweet echo quiet lies;  
Her name with *pleasure* once she taught the shore,  
Now Daphne's dead, and *pleasure* is no more. *Pope.*  
2. Loose gratification.  
Convey your *pleasures* in a spacious plenty,  
And yet seem cold. *Shakespeare.*  
Behold yon dame does shake the head to hear of *pleasure's*  
name. *Shakespeare's King Lear.*  
Not sunk in carnal *pleasure*. *Milton.*  
3. Approbation.  
The Lord taketh *pleasure* in them that fear him. *Psalms.*  
4. What the will dictates.  
Use your *pleasure*; if your love do not persuade you to  
come, let not my letter. *Shakespeare's Merch. of Venice.*  
He will do his *pleasure* on Babylon. *Is. xlviii.*  
5. Choice; arbitrary will.  
We ascribe not only effects depending on the natural period  
of time unto arbitrary calculations, and such as vary at *plea-*  
*sure*, but confirm our tenets by the uncertain account of  
others. *Brown's Vulgar Errors*, b. iv.  
Half their fleet offends  
His open side, and high above him shews;  
Upon the rest at *pleasure* he descends,  
And doubly harm'd, he double harm bestows. *Dryden.*  
Raise tempests at your *pleasure*. *Dryden.*  
We can at *pleasure* move several parts of our bodies. *Locke.*  
All the land in their dominions being acquired by conquest,  
was disposed by them according to their *pleasure*. *Arbutnot.*  
To **PLEASE.** *v. a.* [*from the noun.*] To please; to gra-  
tify. This word, though supported by good authority, is,  
I think, inelegant.  
Things, thus set in order,  
Shall further thy harvest, and *pleasure* thee best. *Tusser.*  
I count it one of my greatest afflictions, that I cannot *plea-*  
*sure* such an honourable gentleman. *Shakespeare.*  
If what *pleases* him, shall *please* you,  
Fight closer, or good faith you'll catch a blow. *Shakespeare.*  
When the way of *pleasuring* and displeasing lieth by the  
favourite, it is impossible any should be overgreat. *Bacon.*  
Nothing is difficult to love; it will make a man cross his  
own inclinations to *please* them whom he loves. *Tillotson.*  
**PLEASUREFUL.** *adj.* [*pleasure and full.*] Pleasant; delightful.  
Obsolete.  
This country, for the fruitfulness of the land and the con-  
venience of the sea, hath been reputed a very commodious  
and *pleasureful* country. *Abbot's Description of the World.*  
19 X *PLEBEIAN.*